

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

**Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In this side lock apparatus, a opening and closing member is fixed to a support unit so that the opening and closing member can be opened and closed, left and right latches being movably held on the opening and closing member, ~~each~~ of the left and right latches being urged by a pressure of a spring means toward a lock hole formed in the support unit, a free end portion of ~~each~~ of the latches being moved back from the lock hole in the support member against the spring means by an operation of the operating handle, wherein the left and right latches are operatively connected together via a link lever supported rotatably via a shaft on the opening and closing member, the operating handle being provided with an operating portion engageable with the latch, at least one latch being provided with ~~not smaller than~~ two contact surfaces engageable with the operating portion of the operating handle.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In this side lock apparatus, a opening and closing member is fixed to a support unit so that the opening and closing member can be opened and closed, left and right latches being movably held on the opening and closing member, the left and right latches being urged by a pressure of a spring toward a lock hole formed in the support unit, a free end portion of the latches being moved back from the lock hole in the support member against the spring means by an operation of the operating handle, wherein the left and right latches are operatively connected together via a link lever supported rotatably via a shaft on the opening and closing member, the operating handle being provided with an operating portion engageable with the latch, at least one latch being provided with two contact surfaces engageable with the operating portion of the operating handle.